

RJC Standards Committee meeting

Date: 15th October 2025

Standards Committee Attendees:

- Purvi Shah, Philippe Telouk, Robin Kolvenbach, Marie-Charlotte, Noora Jamsheer, Charlene Nemson, Silvia Bezzone, Alexander Gul, Jennifer Hillard, Sara Yood, Gavin Hilson, Monica Barcellos Harris, Renata Lawton-Misra.

RJC Management Team:

- Suzanne Brooks, Caroline Watson, Megan Gannon, Chloe Knowles, Jasmeet Kaur, Alyssa Fontaine, Melanie Grant, Elyssa Jenkins-Perez, Charlotte Stanbridge

Attending:

- Laure Williams (on behalf of Richemont, Joelle Ponnelle)

Apologies:

- John Hall, Effie Marinos, Joelle Ponnelle, Ainsley Butler, Didier Backaert, Maggie Gabos, Salah Hussein, Kim Wenzel, Laurent Massi, Marco Quadri, Eduard Stefanescu, Marcin Piersiak.

- **Welcome and introduction**

After the introduction by Purvi Shah as industry Co-Chair of the Committee, Committee members were reminded of the Anti-Trust Policy. The roll call was taken. The minutes from the 17th September were approved by Philippe Telouk from Industry, and Jennifer Hillard from the non-industry side. Quorum was confirmed.

- **Supplementary Guidance for Diamond Traceability Claims: Committee Sign-Off**

A summary was provided of the proposal phased approach to the diamond's traceability supplementary guidance. Thanks were given to the committee for their feedback on the guidance, and the RJC confirmed their comments were taken into consideration for the final draft. The RJC reiterated that the guidance is intended to support alignment with ISEAL and ISO 17065 and that it needs to be published by year-end to support industry readiness for the EU/G7 traceability deadline.

The RJC confirmed, following discussions with the Strategic Taskforce, the proposed deadline for the supplementary guidance publication is December 2025. This document will define the mandatory system elements for members making specific provenance claims related to diamond traceability or segregation and outline what auditors should verify during COP audits. Following this, a subsequent phase 2 will focus on developing a toolkit, with a proposed publication deadline in Q1 2026. The toolkit will provide further clarification on methodology, system design, and terminology to support consistent implementation, and will be accompanied by an assessment tool. The RJC also confirmed that the feedback received from the Standards Committee primarily related to implementation and will be considered in the development of the toolkit.

Based on Standards Committee approval, the guidance will be taken to the Executive Committee for endorsement on 24 October 2025 (*since rescheduled to 7 November*), and to the RJC Board for

approval on 20 November 2025. As part of a phase 3 approach, consideration will be given to integrating the guidance into future Standards reviews (COP and/or COC). The Committee was reminded by the industry Co-Chair that the publication of provenance claims is not mandatory, however, such claims must be verified, and further guidance is available in the Assurance Manual on the website.

A member of the committee raised a question about the placement of the risk assessment wording in the document and proposed moving it into the management system section. The RJC acknowledged they will review and make this change. A second member queried whether the guidance can be used to make provenance claims more robust and reliable. The RJC reiterated that members can make provenance claims from the COP, and that the supplementary guidance is specifically about traceability claims; it has not been applied to provenance claims as not all of these relate to traceability. The industry Co-Chair supported the method the RJC took on this topic.

A question was raised about whether the supplementary guidance can be used as voluntary guidance to support future Chain of Custody on diamonds. The RJC confirmed that the guidance is voluntary, but if a member wishes to make a traceability claim, this will provide an auditable process. The same Committee member queried the reference to private companies in the guidance, to which the RJC confirmed this will be reviewed.

A member inquired about the disclosure requirements in invoices and statements related to the G7 requirements, noting these are enforced in a particular way in those countries. The RJC clarified that G7 requirements are not considered provenance claims as they are audited under COP provision 1 (legal requirements). Therefore, any obligation mandated by the standard is not a provenance claim. However, if a company voluntarily makes statements related to the G7 requirements that go beyond legal or regulatory obligations, such statements would then be treated as provenance claims.

A question was raised regarding the definition of diamond traceability, noting there is currently no established threshold or standard defining what constitutes robust traceability. It was queried what type of documentation is considered sufficient for traceability purposes. In response, the RJC confirmed that the types of documents required to support traceability will be outlined in the upcoming toolkit (phase 2).

A preliminary vote was taken to gauge acceptance, with amendments being made.

- **RJC Standards – Implementation and Roll Out**

All self-assessments have been released except for the standalone LGMS one. The COC self-assessment was confirmed to be released next week, and translation has begun for all of them. Auditor training is ongoing with 98% of auditors have made accounts. A member webinar will be held on the 30th October about calculation of greenhouse gas emissions.

- **Standards Committee, in-person meeting**

Thanks were given to those who have confirmed attendance. The RJC confirmed attendance so far of 14 existing Committee members, and 9 new committee members. An overview of the agenda for the meeting on the 16th-18th December was provided, highlighting areas such as reflections, looking forwards, ways of working, and working groups. A more detailed look at the agenda and preparations would be shared in the November meeting.

- **Internal Performance Monitoring Report**

The Assistant ESG and Impacts Manager, Chloe Knowles, provided a highlight of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) report and impacts analysis. It was confirmed that the RJC will be updating the Theory of Change to align closer to the ISEAL code next year. Following a member survey, the RJC provided updates and analysis on three impact pathways highlighted in the M&E report. The data was collected reflecting the period from the 1st January to 31st December 2024. The first impact pathway is about 'members first', with the RJC highlighting areas of growth, satisfaction, and improvement. The second pathway is about 'Partnerships for progress' consisting of the sustainable brands that members are partnering with, or their work towards sustainable operations. The last pathway is about 'Advocacy for positive change' consisting of member usage of RJC resources. Chloe highlighted that the ESG and Impacts team will be participating in the in-person meeting in December and hosting a breakout group on the Theory of Change working group.

AOB and Closing

The RJC confirmed that outreach for new Committee members for 2026 is ongoing and introductory calls are beginning the following week. A meeting with the Strategic Taskforce is being held on the 30th October, where deadlines and roadmaps for 2026 will be discussed. The Committee was reminded that the remaining meetings for the year are 12th November and the in-person 16th-18th December. The RJC have proposed an open discussion agenda item for the next meeting. Following a query, the Committee was reminded that final approval of new Committee members will take place at the board meeting on the 20th November.

The meeting was closed by Suzanne Brooks, Standards General Manager on behalf of Purvi Shah, Industry Co-Chair.